Supply of electricity to farmers

†*283. SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts being made for the development of new and renewable energy and the percentage of the farmers getting power in this agriculture based country;

(b) the details regarding the percentage of share of the Centre and the States in the subsidy on power provided to the farmers; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), the nodal Ministry for all matters relating to new and renewable energy, has informed that for development of new and renewable energy in the country, its schemes/programmes are broadly as follows:

(i) Grid-interactive/distributed renewable power

(ii) Renewable Energy for urban, industrial and commercial applications

(iii) Renewable energy for rural applications, and

(iv) Research and development in new and renewable energy.

Statistics with regard to consumption of electricity separately by farmers are not maintained by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA). However, as per information received from the CEA, the consumption of power in the agricultural sector during 2005-06 has been approximately 22% of the total power consumed.

Electricity is a concurrent subject. Distribution of electricity is under the purview of the concerned State. The provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003 enable a State Government to grant subsidy to any consumer or class of consumers in the tariff determined by the State Electricity Regulatory Commission; the National Electricity Policy further elaborates that for this purpose, the State Government would require to make necessary budget provision in advance.

According to the MNRE, the Central Government provides support for development and deployment of various renewable energy systems/devices under the schemes/programmes formulated under the broad categories as mentioned above. The State Governments, on the other hand, are responsible for implementation of some of these schemes/programmes with matching budgetary support, apart from creating conditions for the growth of renewables in their respective States.

According to information received from the MNRE, the major programmes for rural areas are the remote village electrification programmes, bio-gas, bio-mass gasifer, solar photovoltaic, small wind energy system and village energy security test projects in rural areas. The Central Financial Assistance (CFA) under these programmes covers various categories of beneficiaries including farmers. During

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the last five years, the Central Government has given CFA of about Rs.633 crores for these schemes.

In addition, the Ministry of Power has released capital subsidy to the extent of Rs.4900 crores under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana since the inception of this scheme in 2005. Under the scheme, so far, 43,100 villages have been electrified and connections to 13.37 lakhs BPL families have been released.

Education Boards

*284. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Education Boards in the country at senior secondary level;

(b) the number of Boards at National and State Levels respectively;

(c) the rationale behind having multiple Senior Secondary Education Boards in the country;

(d) whether Government have done any study about desirability of multiple Boards;

(e) if so, the details of the outcome;

(f) whether Government propose to reduce the number of such Boards in the interest of standardised-curriculum and examination all over the country;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) As per information available with the Ministry, the number of Education Boards in the country conducting examinations at higher secondary level is 32 out of which 3 operate at national level and the remaining 29 at the State level.

(c) Education being a conourrent subject in the Constitution of India, States enact their own laws for educational activities which include setting up of Examination Boards as needed for smooth conduct of public examinations. Though all Boards in the country follow National Curriculum Framework, the detailed syllabi and textbooks differ from Board to Board to provide localization and diversity to be more meaningful.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) It is for the State Governments to reduce the number of Boards within their States, depending on the perceived need.